

#9/a

P21587.A01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : N. NISHIKAWA et al.

Appl. No. : Not Yet Assigned (National Stage of PCT/JP00/02573)

Filed : Concurrently Herewith (International Filing Date April 20, 2000)

For : TRICYCLIC COMPOUND

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the calculation of fees and an examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows (a marked-up copy of the claims is attached hereto):

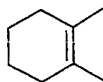
3. (Amended-Clean Text) The compound or the salt thereof according to Claim 1, wherein A is a hydrocarbonic ring group represented by the following formula (Ia), (Ib) or

(Ic):

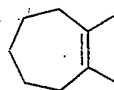
AI



(Ia)



(Ib)



(Ic)